

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A positioning apparatus comprising:

a plug member (12) projected from a first block (1) toward a leading end so as to be inserted into a positioning hole (5)-formed in a second block-(2);

an inclined outer surface (13) provided on the plug member (12) so as to get closer to an axis toward the leading end;

an annular sleeve member (15) arranged outside the inclined outer surface (13) and formed in such a way that at least a part in a circumferential direction is allowed to deform in both a diametrically expanding direction and a diametrically contracting direction;

a straight outer surface (16) provided on the sleeve member (15) and allowed to come into close contact with an inner peripheral surface of the positioning hole-(5);

an inclined inner surface (17) provided on the sleeve member (15) and facing the inclined outer surface-(13);

a drive member (21)-inserted into the plug member (12) axially movably and connected to the sleeve member-(15),

at least one of the inclined inner surface (17) and the inclined outer surface (13) is provided on a pair of projections (61, 61) opposed to each other in the diametrically expanding and diametrically contracting direction,

escape portions (62, 62)-are formed between the projections-(61, 61), the sleeve member (15) is allowed to axially reciprocate by a drive arrangement means (D) via the drive member-(21).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein

a slit (~~51~~) axially extending is formed in a peripheral wall (~~15a~~) of the sleeve member(~~15~~),

a cover member (~~53~~) covering at least a part of the slit (~~51~~) is arranged outside the sleeve member(~~15~~).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein

the cover member (~~53~~) is formed annularly in a circumferentially seamless manner.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein

the cover member (~~53~~) is integrally formed with a cap member (~~25~~) arranged from the plug member (~~12~~) to the leading end side.

Claim 5 (Original). A clamping system which is provided with the positioning apparatus as set forth in any one of claim 1 to claim 4.

Claim 6 (Original). A clamping system provided with a plurality of positioning apparatuses, in which at least one of these positioning apparatuses is the positioning apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 to claim 4.